

4.3 Program Oversight - Governance Structure

Existing Oversight Structure

During the planning phase of the program, the CALFED Policy Group has served as the primary governing body for coordination of individual agency decision-making on CALFED issues. Legal authority for program decisions currently rests with the Governor (for state matters) and the Secretary of Interior (for federal matters). Formal stakeholder input into the program has been provided by BDAC, BDAC Workgroups, Subcommittees, and other Technical Groups. As CALFED moves more into program implementation, new responsibilities will arise and new functions will be required.

Principles. Several principles should be considered as conditions for any governance structure proposed as an oversight entity:

- State and federal partnership
- Stakeholder involvement in decision-making
- Involvement by elected officials
- No impairment of existing agency regulatory authority
- Efficient decision-making
- Durability of agreements/decisions
- Accountability for agreements/decisions

Oversight Functions

- 1. Oversight of CALFED Program Implementation.** General oversight functions include: providing overall program direction, developing policies and making decisions in order to achieve program goals and objectives, making decisions required for staged decision-making, and providing for balanced implementation and continuous improvement in all resource areas. An oversight entity would also be the forum for assessing overall achievement of program goals and objectives. The assessment would be based on progress reports provided by the entities responsible for program management and implementation. An oversight entity would also be responsible for modification, as needed, of program goals and objectives which would be done in coordination with the management and implementing entities.
- 2. Review Budgets and Priorities -- Recommend Approval to Appropriate Agency.** An oversight entity would be responsible for reviewing and recommending approval of program priorities and budgets. Recommendations from the oversight entity would be forwarded to the agency which has the final program/funding authority. Review by an oversight entity would need to be coordinated with state and federal agency budget development, review, and approval processes. Programs would need to be identified within the state and federal agencies that are most related to CALFED objectives to

determine what level of coordination and review those programs should have with/by CALFED. For example, the Delta Levee Subventions and Special Projects Programs, which are administered by DWR, have been fully incorporated into the CALFED Levee Program Plan. Therefore, a high level of coordination would be needed between CALFED and DWR to ensure the subventions and special projects programs support CALFED objectives.

3. **Coordination and Conflict/Dispute Resolution.** An oversight entity would provide a forum for conflict/dispute resolution between CALFED agencies.
4. **Coordination of Related Programs.** An oversight entity would provide for coordination of the CALFED Program with other related programs to maximize available resources, to ensure achievement of CALFED goals and objectives, and to reduce conflicts with other programs.
5. **Stakeholder Communication.** Although implementing agencies for each program element will continue to work with stakeholders, an oversight entity would provide the central forum for stakeholder input and communication.
6. **Legislative Communication.** An oversight entity would communicate with Congress and the California Legislature to report on program progress, answer legislative inquiries, review and respond to legislative proposals, and to review and submit legislative proposals. Legislative communication would need to be coordinated through the appropriate state and federal agencies.